
Council on Aging Board Meeting
Minutes of Meeting 12 June 2002

In Attendance: Chairman Paul Keegan, Vice-Chairman Helene Tanenholtz, Board members Bettyann Chamberlin, Al Crommett, Lillian Goodman, Tim Swiss, and Secretary John Concordia. Director Sharon Yager, Friends representative Phyliss Pearson, and CMAA representative Vicki Zwerdling were also present. The meeting was televised live on SPAC.

1. Chairman's Comments:

The chairman opened the meeting at 10am. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and accepted. He reported that he and Lillian had been appointed to the board for an additional 3 years and reminded the board that there would be no regular meeting in July. He presented information regarding the MOW drivers pay issue which had been reviewed and approved by the town manager. Starting in July a new salary schedule will be in effect which will result in significant savings. Two new drivers have been interviewed to date. Our long-serving driver Pete Sena will be retiring for health reasons.

2. Director's Comments:

The director provided an update on the Shine program under the new administrative set up with Milford COA acting as the planning center for central Mass., overseeing the 3 assistant directors. Al Crommett our board member who is also a SHINE coordinator agreed that things are going well with the program so far.

Sharon notified the board that the fall MCOA conference would be held in October at the Sea Crest in Falmouth and that quarterly planning meetings will be held for directors/outreach/volunteer coordinators.

3. Liaison Reports:

Friends of the SCC, Inc.—Phyliss reported that elections had been held with the same officers elected to serve. A membership luncheon is scheduled for June 18th. The newsletter survey results were discussed and the “calendar” fund raiser in May reported to have netted about \$2500.

Central MA Agency on Aging—Vicki offered several bits of information—the availability of a web site for caregivers—WWW.Senior Connection .org—pre-retirement info is available at Mr. McGovern’s office and finally work is in progress to assess needs of minority groups.

Shrew. Comm. Part./Children—a thanksgiving luncheon was planned for participants of the grand reading program.

Elder Home Care Services of Worc., Inc.—Betty has processed 25 applications for fuel assistance—funding restrictions have put 28 people on hold for services.

4. Old Business:

Transportation Grant—we have passed the first gate toward acquisition of a van—next milestone is set for June 14th. We need to decide whether COA or the FRIENDS will be the owner.

Newsletter Survey Report—Feedback was received from 70 people—some interesting data was received showing that the letter is useful or very useful in providing health/local activity information. This survey went to about 500 women under the age of 69.

“Big “Survey update—Sharon indicated that this survey would be out by the end of this month.

Health Fair Committee—Lillian reported that a meeting was scheduled for June 20th and things are progressing well.

5. New Business:

Protocol for MOW drivers—Paul and Sharon have spent many hours with AGE Center representatives and our assistant town manager to develop procedures for our MOW drivers to follow in case of accidents/other problems with clients. A detailed protocol and reporting form was provided for the board’s review and comment. After much discussion it was agreed that Paul and Sharon deserve much credit for clearing the air on this issue and protecting the town’s interests in the process.

Outreach Effort to Younger Seniors—Sharon indicated that she is planning some things for August to interest this population in town.